

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Response to Restriction Requirement, claim 8 is amended, and Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-7 and 9-11, with traverse.

By this Amendment, the only claim in Group II (claim 8) is amended to incorporate all of the features of claim 1, an independent claim of Group I (claims 1-7 and 9-11). Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that there is now more clearly unity of invention between the claims of Group I and the claim of Group II, because the claims of Group I and the claim of Group II now more clearly have the same or corresponding special technical features. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of all claims 1-11 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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